

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office has allowed claims 16-20 and considers claim 13 as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office has also rejected claims 1-12, 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes (US 6,569,700) in view of Shibib (US 6,228,750).

In response thereto, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-15, without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a continuing application.

Applicants have also added dependent claims 21-23 that are dependent from claim 16, the subject matter of which the Examiner considers as allowable, to further narrow the scope as provided for within the disclosure. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 21-23 are also in condition for allowance. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 16-23 are in condition for

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allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date :

Jan 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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